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Page 4

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Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: BOX NON-FEE AMENDMENT, Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on August 24, 2001.

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ATTACHMENT A

The present invention is directed to an apparatus or system for collecting, using, and storing information in a biological fluid collection and/or processing facility ("facility"). The present invention can be incorporated into an existing facility's system via an upgrade to existing hardware and software. The present apparatus provides a data connection between laboratory instruments, including, but not limited to, existing blood and blood component collection instruments, such as the Autopheresis-C instrument which is supplied by the Fenwal Division of Baxter Healthcare Corporation [International, Inc.] located in Deerfield, Illinois, those described in PCT Publication No. WO 01/17584, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,581,687 and 5,956,023, and U.S. Serial No. 09/037,356, and biological treatment instruments, such as the pathogen inactivation instruments described in U.S. Serial No. 09/325,599, which are all assigned to Baxter [International, Inc.] and are incorporated by reference herein, and the collection facility's management information system which lends itself to automated tracing and/or tracking of donors and biological fluids data logging. Traceability is provided via integration of donor, operator, soft goods, and instrument data. The present invention further automates event reporting which is required for regulatory compliance.

ATTACHMENT B

In a second embodiment illustrated in Figure 2, the apparatus 10 comprises hardware and software component parts and provides for inter-process communication. Figure 2 shows a first network 12. The first network 12 includes laboratory instruments 20a, 20b, 20c, serial/parallel to Ethernet converters 24a, 24b, 24c, such as a PicoWeb™ device by Lightner Engineering located in San Diego, California or a NetDev™ device by Fenwal Division of Baxter Healthcare Corporation [International, Inc.], where needed, a first Ethernet 30, and a system server 34 including a memory, a communication driver for the apheresis instruments, a communication protocol converter, and an HTML application with embedded javascript code.

ATTACHMENT C

The system 10 also allows a facility to gather data from the laboratory instruments. This data can be monitored in real time, or near real time, from remote locations, the workstation(s), or the PDAs. The present system has the ability to convert parallel data to Ethernet which allows the data to be seen using a common web browser. This enables present system to be integrated into existing blood collection facilities that utilize legacy apheresis instruments having a proprietary pin arrangement, such as the Autopheresis-C plasmapheresis instrument supplied by the Fenwal Division of Baxter Healthcare Corporation [International, Inc]. The data conversion is accomplished by the serial/parallel to Ethernet converters or NetDev™ devices 24a, 24b, 24c.